

RI Environmental Monitoring Collaborative
9:00AM to Noon, Thursday, 21 September 2006
Location: Narragansett Bay Commission Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: *P. August URI, K. Raposa NBNERR, C. LaBash URI, J. Boyd CRMC, N. Rubinstein EPA, H. Walker EPA, J. Mariscal WRB, E. Julian DOH, A. Colt RI BRW CT, S. Kiernan DEM, L. Green URI, M. Waldron USGS, R. Breault USGS, T. Uva NBC, M. Cole Ekberg STB, C. Shumway TNC, J. Stachelhaus RIGIS, D. Gregg RINHS, J. King URI*

1) RI Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team Short- and Long-term Challenges and Opportunities. Dr. Ames Colt, Chair

Dr. Colt presented his views and priorities for the Coordination Team. He will endeavor to keep the CT members engaged and active. He would like to have a draft of the Systems Integration (=Level) Plan by the end of 2007. Much of his work will focus on three areas: governance, science informing policy, and financing.

2) Legislative Year in Review

Sue Kiernan and Juan Mariscal reviewed the disposition of the \$250,000 of new funds allocated for environmental monitoring last legislative session. The breakdown is: \$30K to the Economic Monitoring Collab, \$33K for fixed site monitoring in the Bay, \$67K for streamflow monitoring, \$70K for large river monitoring by USGS, and \$50K for rotating basin assessment of rivers and streams.

3) Major Monitoring Initiatives

Sue Kiernan handed out a copy of the DEM wetlands monitoring and assessment plan. Digital copy is available under on-line resources on the RIEMC web site (<http://www.ci.uri.edu/Projects/RI-Monitoring/OnlineResources.html>). Send any comments to Carol Murphy at DEM.

Sue Kiernan reviewed the DEM CALM (consolidated assessment and listing methodology) document. This describes how DEM interprets data and makes decisions based on data. The RIEMC should review this when it is available.

4) Priority Monitoring Objectives for 2007-2008

Each of the 13 priority monitoring activities submitted to the Coordination Team were discussed to see if they were still priority and relevant. All 13 were deemed

critical. We will ask the CT to request funding next legislative session. Initiative leaders will reevaluate budgets and make them current for this submission.

5) Development of 1 Page Briefing Sheets for Each Major Monitoring Activity for Which New Funding is Going to be Requested

The Collaborative felt this was a good idea. Anyone with ideas for a format template should email them to August, Kiernan, or Uva in the next few days.

Authors for each one-pager are given below. They will be given a template to follow and they will provide the information for the one-page overviews for legislators and decision-makers. Once a complete suite of overviews is available, they will be consolidated together and circulated among the RIEMC for review.

*Kiernan, Fixed Site
Mariscal, USGS Stream Flow
Kiernan, USGS River Monitoring
Kiernan, Rotating Coastal Waters
Kiernan, Rotating Basins
Stachelhaus and LaBash, Database Capacity
Deacutis, DO Surveys
Kiernan, Fish Tissue
Gregg, Invasives
August, Emergency Response Data
Julian, Freshwater Beaches
Green, Lake and Stream
August, Grants*

Adjourned 11:57 AM